

I categorically oppose a return to Republican tax policies that benefit only the rich at the expense of the Nation. The elections told us that Americans are tired of giveaways to Wall Street and CEOs. But that is exactly what these tax cuts represent. Under the bill passed last night, 40,000 of the wealthiest families in America will save \$25 billion on estate taxes compared to current law. Couples earning over \$250,000 keep an extra \$116 billion over two years. Each billion equals one thousand millions. Just think of all the deficit reduction and extended unemployment benefits that could pay for.

When we are leaving millions of unemployed people empty handed a week before Christmas, it is outrageous to push our country further into debt just to give unnecessary tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans. I simply could not support such a stark contrast in our priorities.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND
DEDICATION OF SEAN GILLILAND

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Sean Gilliland for his contributions to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. They work long hours—often for little pay or recognition—and their service is simply invaluable to those of us who serve in this esteemed chamber. Throughout my 26 years in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out those who are serving my constituents as my tenure comes to a close.

For more than 15 years, Sean Gilliland has been a dedicated and loyal field representative in my Murfreesboro office. He has spent countless hours traveling the district with me and attending parades, open meetings and events in every corner of the district. Sean works tirelessly on behalf of Middle Tennessee's veterans and their families, ensuring they receive the benefits and assistance they deserve, and helping them obtain the medals they earned during their service to our country. Over the years, Sean has helped me send the best and brightest young men and women to our nation's military service academies, filled in for me when my duties in Washington prevented me from attending an event or meeting, and enabled me to better represent the needs and interests of the people of the Sixth District.

Sean's career has been one of service, whether at my office or in the community. He serves on the Board of Directors of Main Street, Leadership Rutherford, the Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra, the Rutherford County Adult Activity Center, and others. He has also donated his time to many other civic committees, and is deeply involved in his church. It is fitting that Sean will leave government service to enter a new kind of public

service in the administration of the Primary Care and Hope Clinic, a faith-based non-profit that provides health care to the uninsured.

Madam Speaker, Sean is a loving father, a dedicated husband and an all-around good person. I know that my busy weekend schedules in Tennessee have led him to spend some Independence Day and other holiday celebrations at official functions with me rather than with his wife, Anne, and daughter, Molly. I appreciate the sacrifices they have made over the years.

Sean, thank you for all your help and dedication over these many years. I wish you, Anne and Molly all the best.

BRAZIL HARBORS AMERICAN
DAUGHTER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, Brazil is at it again. We thought they learned their lesson in the case of Sean Goldman, but they have not—as of 2009, there were still over 50 kidnapped children in Brazil, including Nicole Pate, the daughter of my constituent, Marty Pate.

I have come to this floor before to talk about the case of my constituent, Marty Pate. Marty lives in Crosby, Texas, and has not seen his daughter, Nicole, in 4 years. Her mother, Monica, is a native of Brazil. In 2006, she took Nicole on a trip to Brazil and never came back.

Legal documents from Texas give Marty joint custody, and the Hague Convention requires Brazil to work out visitation for Marty. Marty is not asking for his daughter to be returned—though it is well within his rights to ask for this. He is just asking to see his daughter and have her visit family in the United States.

Marty has gone above and beyond in trying to work with the government of Brazil. He has even offered to drop the charges pending against his ex-wife if it would make a visit with Nicole easier. He has spent over \$10,000 of his own money flying to and from Brazil countless times to see Nicole.

But Brazilian officials have continued to stonewall and ignore their obligations under the Hague Convention. They have allowed Nicole's mother to make a mockery of the Hague process, to file meaningless allegations and attempt to delay the process. So far, it's working. The Government of Brazil has let this case linger for over a year without resolution.

A child's welfare hangs in the balance. Nicole Pate is caught between two worlds—living with her mother in Brazil and not allowed to see her father or her siblings back in the United States. But officials in Brazil don't seem to care. They are taking their sweet time in dealing with this case. In August, it was decided that the case would go before a Federal judge. It is now December and we still don't have a court date.

Madam Speaker, there is a reason that the State Department has labeled Brazil a non-compliant country when it comes to honoring the Hague Convention. It seems that Brazil would rather sign onto treaties and gain all the benefits that come with that—but they don't

care about holding up their end of the bargain. The State Department needs to take aggressive action to pressure Brazil into acting with haste when determining the fates of American children. There is no excuse for Brazil to drag their feet while little Nicole Pate sits and wonders why she can't see her daddy.

Even worse is that the behavior of Brazil and other non-compliant Hague countries seems to have no impact on our foreign policy in relation to these countries. We still trade with them, we still send them millions in foreign aid each year, and these countries still violate their treaty obligations. Or in the case of Brazil, become a haven for kidnapped American children.

That is why in the 112th Congress I intend to introduce a bill that will require Congress to vote on foreign aid by country—instead of in one, giant package. The American people should be able to see where we send foreign aid money, and for what purpose. And furthermore, it will allow Congress to hold countries accountable to receiving that money.

It's time for the Government of Brazil to begin honoring their obligations under the Hague Convention. It's time for the State Department to be more aggressive in fighting for kidnapped American children around the world.

And it's time for Marty Pate to be reunited with his kidnapped daughter, Nicole.

And that's just the way it is.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENFORCING
ORDERS AND REDUCING
CUSTOMS EVASION (ENFORCE)
ACT OF 2010

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, today, joined by Representatives WALTER JONES and MARK CRITZ, I introduce the Enforcing Orders and Reducing Customs Evasion Act, or the ENFORCE Act. This legislation is critical to improving our ability to enforce trade laws.

This bill is about protecting American businesses and the workers that keep those businesses thriving.

Unfortunately, under current law, too many foreign producers flout our trade laws. Too many ship mislabeled goods to the U.S. to avoid paying legally imposed anti-dumping or countervailing duties. And they do this with impunity, rarely paying a price for their crimes.

Many of these fraudsters even have websites advertising how, for a fee, they can help you avoid paying the duties legally owed the United States. In November, my colleague Senator WYDEN of Oregon, published a useful report identifying 12 such Chinese companies.

Most of these companies' evasion schemes involve illegal transshipment through a third country and falsified country-of-origin certificates for Chinese products destined for the United States and other export markets.

This dishonest conduct robs the American people and our federal coffers of money rightly owed. But perhaps more importantly, it gives these deceitful actors an advantage over American businesses. It has forced hundreds of businesses, in my district and others, to permanently close their doors.

Too many businesses like Michel's Furniture in Lynwood, California, in my own district, have shut their doors because through duty evasion, foreign products receive an unfair and illegal price advantage over our home-grown, American products.

That is why I am proud to introduce the bipartisan ENFORCE Act.

The ENFORCE Act strengthens the ability of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, CBP, to combat duty evasion by foreign manufacturers. For the first time, domestic producers will have the opportunity to formally petition CBP to investigate possible anti-dumping and countervailing duty evasions.

The ENFORCE Act requires CBP to initiate an investigation and to make timely preliminary and final determinations as to whether an importer engaged (or is engaging) in evasion. No longer will domestic producers wait helplessly by, hoping that CBP will act to vindicate their rights. The bill requires CBP to act and then publicly report on its findings within prescribed timeframes.

Finally, foreign violators will be held accountable for the damage they do to American businesses, workers, and our economy as a whole.

American businesses and workers can compete and win against products from anywhere in the world—if we have a level playing field.

The ENFORCE Act will help create that level playing field, supporting U.S. businesses and their employees.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan, pro-business, pro-American bill.

DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL REPEAL ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker I rise in support of H.R. 2965, Repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell". This bill will allow thousands of Americans who have wanted the chance to serve their country openly and freely an opportunity to do so. The repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell is the right thing to do morally as a country. Military personnel, who risk their lives on a daily basis so that we can enjoy all the freedoms America has to offer, should not be denied the ability to serve based upon their sexual orientation. Equality is not a privilege, it is a right and repealing this law is a huge step in that direction.

At a time when our country is fighting two wars we should support those Americans whom fight for our liberties and freedoms. Unfortunately, DADT prevents thousands from doing so which makes no sense at all. The Pentagon's report from last month indicated a majority of our military soldiers and leaders support a repeal of DADT and I believe we should listen to them and honor what our country really stands for which is freedom, liberty, and justice for all.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND DEDICATION OF JOE PATTERSON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Joe Patterson for his contributions to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. They work long hours—often for little pay or recognition—and their service is simply invaluable to those of us who serve in this esteemed chamber. Throughout my 26 years in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out those who are serving my constituents as my tenure comes to a close.

Joe Patterson joined my staff in 2000. Incredibly, that makes him one of the newest members of the team in Murfreesboro. It is a joke among my staff that even with a decade of dedicated public service under his belt, Joe is still the low man on the totem pole in my hometown office.

All joking aside, Joe's depth of experience overshadows his seniority. In addition to his work as my field representative and advocate for seniors, persons with disabilities, and those in need of housing assistance, Joe also has the responsibility of helping people who urgently need passports or visas on short notice. Thousands of Sixth District residents might not have been able to attend a loved one's funeral, take a business trip or enjoy a hastily-planned honeymoon if not for his work expediting their passports. Grateful constituents have sent him best wishes from sandy beaches on six continents—he's only waiting on Antarctica.

Joe is an incredibly hard worker. He has a great rapport with the constituents he works with and has deep roots in the community. Stories of his cows getting through fences on his property and roaming all over Cannon County have been the subject of my annual Christmas letters over the years. What has never been publicly recognized until now is Joe's uncanny knowledge of trivial information. Whether the topic is cuisine or the latest hi-tech gadget, Joe can always bring some new and interesting tidbit to the conversation.

An enthusiastic student of aeronautics, Joe has worked with NASA and local school districts to enable teachers in Middle Tennessee to attend Space Shuttle launches at Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The once-in-a-lifetime experience and lesson plans brought back to the classrooms have been a welcome addition to schools across my district. This worthwhile endeavor would not have been possible without Joe's passion for the subject and dedication to the project.

Madam Speaker, Joe has been an integral part of my staff and an invaluable help to the people of the Sixth District of Tennessee. I wish him, his wife, Lori, and their daughter, Kyla, all the best in the future.

REMARKS TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, it has been a true privilege for Betty Ann and me to represent Tennessee's 8th district in this chamber for the past 22 years, and we will always be grateful to the people of west and middle Tennessee who have given us the chance to do so. We now look forward to the transition from our role in Congress to that of private citizens, often said to be the highest office in our country.

Following the Constitutional Convention, Madam Speaker, a citizen asked Benjamin Franklin what that important body had created, and he replied, "A republic, if you can keep it." At the heart of this governmental model, public officials represent first and foremost the people who elect them.

I worry that our government is in danger of becoming more of a parliamentary system, where elected officials represent first and foremost their political parties. That is not what our founding fathers intended when they established this great nation, and it is not the right approach for our nation going forward.

The American people, by and large, do not reside in the extreme left wing or in the extreme right wing. They are solution-minded citizens who want their elected representatives to work together to address the problems that face us as Americans, not as Democrats or Republicans.

Unfortunately, the current political system, especially following decades of partisan gerrymandering with more to come in the year ahead, does little to incentivize such cooperation. Consequently, the political center in our representative government has been decimated, resulting in a great disservice to the American people.

Many of us certainly understand and share the angst the American people feel in a time of economic uncertainty, two wars, a seemingly insurmountable federal debt and ongoing concerns over homeland security.

These are complex problems that cannot be solved with bumper-sticker solutions, oversimplified soundbites and combative rhetoric. They require cooperation among thoughtful individuals who will put their district and country first.

To address these problems and restore the faith in our republic, those inside and outside government must be willing to extend to one who disagrees the same purity of motive and intellectual honesty one claims for oneself.

That is necessary, Madam Speaker, if we are to keep our republic.

HONORING ABRAHAM "ABE" THOMPSON

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Abraham "Abe" Thompson, who passed away on Wednesday, December 15, 2010, at the age of 94.